

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following paragraph to page 1, directly under the Title of the Invention:

**--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

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This application is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/443,432, filed 22 May 2003, currently pending, which is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial No.: 09/980,875, filed 29 October 2001, currently pending, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No.: 60/132,714, filed 06 May 1999.--

On Page 1, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The streptococci make up a medically important genera of microbes known to cause several types of disease in humans, including, for example, otitis media, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, bacteremia, meningitis, sinusitis, pleural emphysema and endocarditis, and most particularly meningitis, such as for example infection of cerebrospinal fluid. Since its isolation more than 100 years ago, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* has been one of the more intensively studied microbes. For example, much of our early understanding that DNA is, in fact, the genetic material was predicated on the work of Griffith and of Avery, Macleod and McCarty using this microbe. Despite the vast amount of research with *S. pneumoniae*, many questions concerning the virulence of this microbe remain. There is an unmet medical need to employ streptococcal genes and gene products as targets for the development of antibiotics.--

After page 41, please add page 42, which solely incorporates the Abstract page. No changes have been made and therefore, a marked up version is not required.